

EUPITHECIA EGENARIA H.S. — A RECENT ARRIVAL? — There is of course the completely opposite possibility to Col. Emmet's suggestion (*Ent. Rec.* 93: 177) that *egenaria* is an ancient relic, namely that it may be a very recent arrival! At least this is more likely for the Thetford (Norfolk and Suffolk) colonies which inhabit limes that were planted as avenue and park trees only at the end of the last century. And so far as can be deduced there are no primary woodland relics in the Breck, which was principally sheeprun and rabbit warren before estates of the nouveau riche and then the pine plantations that date from 1921. There was no indigenous lime.

Larvae at Thetford have now been beaten from all three limes, *T. cordata*, *T. platyphyllos* and the hybrid *europaea*, but the first-named is much less common there. It is arguable that these Thetford populations originated from *Tilia cordata* of adjoining counties but the extensive primary woodlands of central Lincolnshire were worked especially for *egenaria* during the seventies using both MV light and blossom beating, with conspicuous lack of success. In Lincs. *T. cordata* flowers late, rarely before mid July at which date *egenaria* larvae are fully fed, and at Thetford so far larvae were found in quantity on *T. cordata* only in 1979 when it flowered early. The biological clock of *egenaria* may be a little more critical than that of the leaf eaters or miners and parallel assumptions of their distribution may not apply.

So far as the beekeeping monks are concerned it is more likely they introduced *T. platyphyllos* rather than the indigenous *cordata* in order to extend the following time and abundance of a food source. A further possibility therefore is that *egenaria* was in some way introduced not with *cordata* but with *platyphyllos* and maybe at different historical times. In the Wye valley *egenaria* could then have adapted itself to the earlier flowering and more plentiful wild *cordata*, whereas at Thetford there is no wild lime so the moth has remained associated with introduced trees. So far those Thetford moths I have reared appear uniformly much more dusky than the paler, clearer marked Wye valley insects, and separate introduction could explain the difference.

Rather than seek *egenaria* exclusively in relic woods of *T. cordata* therefore, I would urge it be sought also in old avenues or parkland of the other limes as long as they are well sheltered.

Suffolk *P. harpagula* is a very different matter that can fairly be described as an editorial red-herring. If we read the detail given in Morley's 1937 List we see that the careful collector in whose collection this unique insect resided had not identified it as *harpagula*, and it was not until after the redoubtable Mr. Meek detected it following purchase of the collection that the species extended its distribution to Suffolk! — G. M. HAGGETT, Northacre, Caston, Norfolk.

LITHOPHANE LEAUTIERI BOISD.: BLAIR'S SHOULDER-KNOT IN WARWICKSHIRE. — Only the second recorded Warwickshire *leautieri* was found in my m.v. trap here on the cold night of 10th October 1981. — D. C. G. BROWN, Jacksons Farmhouse, 25 Charlecote, Nr. Warwick.